

Message Text

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DOE:RSLAWSON

S/S: RCASTRODALE

-----102985 072241Z /73

O 072145Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144498

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, ENRG, AS, IR

SUBJECT:US-IRAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT

REF: A) CANBERRA 4237, B) STATE 113836, C) CANBERRA
4374

1. RE PARA 2 OF REFTTEL A. STATUS OF US-IRAN NUCLEAR
COOPERATION AGREEMENT REMAINS ESSENTIALLY AS INDICATED
IN REFTTEL B: NAMELY, WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MEET IRANIAN
CONCERN ABOUT LONG-TERM DISPOSITION OF SPENT FUEL BY OFFER-
ING SPECIFIC OPTIONS.

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2. IN DISCUSSING STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROY
FERNANDEZ OF THE DFA YOU SHOULD ADVISE HIM OF THE ABOVE
AND REITERATE POINTS CONTAINED IN FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS OF
REFTTEL B. IN ADDITION YOU MAY TELL FERNANDEZ THAT, IN
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARA 2 OF REFTTEL B, WE HAVE OFFERED
TO INCLUDE A "MOST FAVORED NATION" CLAUSE COVERING GENERAL

COOPERATION UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT AS WELL AS A SPECIFIC INTERPRETATION OF THAT MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS WITH RESPECT TO REPROCESSING. IN THE LATTER CASE WE HAVE

OFFERED IRAN THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE FUEL REPROCESSED IN THE UK, FRANCE OR OTHER MUTUALLY AGREED STATE (WITH US CONSENT) SHOULD WE EXERCISE OUR RIGHT OF APPROVAL CONTAINED IN OUR OTHER AGREEMENTS TO ALLOW ANY REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL IN THE SAME TIME FRAME IRAN NEEDS TO DISPOSE OF ITS SPENT FUEL (CIRCA 1990). THE IRANIANS ARE SEEKING TO ELIMINATE THE PHRASE "IN THE SAME TIME FRAME THAT IRAN NEEDS TO REPROCESS SPENT FUEL." DELETION OF THIS PHRASE WOULD HAVE THE

EFFECT, FOR EXAMPLE, OF ALLOWING REPROCESSING OF IRANIAN SPENT FUEL IN 1990 (IN THE UK, FRANCE, OR MUTUALLY AGREED STATE) IF THE US CONSENTED TO REPROCESSING OF US SUPPLIED FUEL NOW (E.G., IN JAPAN AT TOKAI MURA). WE ARE UNDER FIRM INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING RETENTION OF THE "SAME TIME FRAME" FORMULATION.

3. FYI. EMBASSY WILL NOTE WE HAVE OPTED TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING WITH GOA BY INDICATING MORE PRECISELY WHAT ISSUES ARE INVOLVED IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO FERNANDEZ THE HIGHLY SENSITIVE NATURE OF THESE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS AND THE NEED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO ENSURE THAT THIS INFO BE VERY CLOSELY HELD. END FYI.
VANCE

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